

Senate Resolution 105 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY GARRETT

1 A Resolution recognizing Chronic Traumatic
2 Encephalopathy Awareness Day.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is
4 a progressive, degenerative brain disease that appears
5 in persons with a history of repetitive brain trauma
6 sustained over a period of years; and

7 WHEREAS, CTE was first described in 1928 by Dr.
8 Harrison Martland in a study published in the Journal
9 of the American Medical Association linking brain
10 injury and boxing; and

11 WHEREAS, it was not until 2002 that Dr. Bennet Omalu
12 discovered the first pathological evidence of CTE in
13 a professional football player and, together with his
14 colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh, published
15 the details of his groundbreaking findings in 2005; and

16 WHEREAS, CTE is caused by a buildup of an abnormal
17 protein called tau in the brain leading to brain cell
18 death; and

19 WHEREAS, the risk of developing CTE is greatest with
20 athletes, military veterans, and domestic violence
21 survivors, who frequently endure repeated subconcussive
22 blows to the head from playing contact sports or suffer
23 traumatic injury from military training or blasting or
24 hits sustained by partners or caretakers; and it also
25 appears in those with epilepsy; and

26 WHEREAS, symptoms associated with CTE, such as
27 sleep disturbances, memory loss, tremors, addictions,
28 progressive dementia, depression, suicidal thoughts,

1 impaired judgment, and paranoia, most often present
2 years or decades after the brain trauma or hits cease,
3 but have been found in a patient as young as 17 years
4 old; and

5 WHEREAS, currently, CTE can only be definitively
6 diagnosed after death through postmortem
7 neuropathological analysis; and

8 WHEREAS, advocacy organizations, health care
9 providers, and institutional researchers are dedicated
10 to studying the cause and symptoms of CTE in order to
11 enable parents and families to make informed decisions
12 regarding the best interests of their children in
13 youth sports and to develop an earlier diagnostic tool
14 so patients may address these symptoms as early as
15 possible; and

16 WHEREAS, one such advocacy organization is CTE Hope,
17 founded as a statewide advocacy and education support
18 group by family and friends of Zac Easter of Indianola,
19 Iowa, who suffered from CTE after multiple concussions
20 and subconcussive hits playing youth and high school
21 football from age 6 to 18, served our country in the
22 Iowa Army National Guard, and was a victim of a car
23 accident; and

24 WHEREAS, the mission of CTE Hope is to put a face on
25 this mind-robbing disease, and to educate the public
26 that it does not only impact professional athletes, but
27 children and nonathletes as well; and

28 WHEREAS, CTE Hope also endeavors to further research
29 on this devastating brain disease, with CTE Hope's
30 initial research in Iowa confirming that saliva testing

1 provides real-time indicators of inflammatory proteins
2 in the brain that cause CTE; and

3 WHEREAS, CTE Hope founded CTE Awareness Day and
4 now along with other organizations will celebrate CTE
5 Awareness Day across the United States on January 30,
6 2018, in order to reflect on those lost to CTE, to help
7 those suffering with the disease, and most importantly
8 to stop the disease; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
10 recognizes January 30, 2018, as CTE Awareness Day in
11 Iowa.